

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 25, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 8, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 23, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 13, 2006

## **Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 72**

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**Introduced by Senator Maldonado**  
**(Coauthor: Senator Bowen)**  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Blakeslee)

January 13, 2006

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 72—Relative to the Vernon L. Sturgeon Memorial Highway, and to the Marilyn Jorgenson Reece Memorial Interchange.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 72, as amended, Maldonado. Vernon L. Sturgeon Memorial Highway and the Marilyn Jorgenson Reece Memorial Interchange.

This measure would designate a portion of State Highway Route 101 in San Luis Obispo County as the Vernon L. Sturgeon Memorial Highway. The measure would also designate the Interstate 10 and Interstate 405 interchange in Los Angeles as the Marilyn Jorgenson Reece Memorial Interchange. The measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers showing these special designations, and upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those plaques and markers.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Vernon L. Sturgeon was born on October 1,  
2 1915, in Chandler, Arizona, and was one of 10 children born to  
3 George and Josephine Sturgeon; and

4 WHEREAS, Vernon L. Sturgeon attended schools in Paso  
5 Robles and followed in his father's footsteps as a milk distributor  
6 in San Luis Obispo County for 20 years; and

7 WHEREAS, Vernon L. Sturgeon served on the Paso Robles  
8 City Council for eight years and as the Mayor of the City of Paso  
9 Robles for three years; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1961, Vernon L. Sturgeon was elected to the  
11 State Senate for Senate District 29, and served in the Legislature  
12 until 1966, when that district was reapportioned; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1966, Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon became a  
14 key advisor to Governor Ronald Reagan and, in 1967, became  
15 the Governor's Legislative Liaison Officer, and also served as  
16 Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Public Works; and

17 WHEREAS, Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon was appointed by  
18 Governor Reagan to the Public Utilities Commission in 1969,  
19 and was later reappointed by Governor Jerry Brown, making him  
20 one of the few people to be appointed to the same position by  
21 both governors. Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon served on the  
22 commission until 1979, which included a three-year term as  
23 president of the commission; and

24 WHEREAS, Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon was a philanthropist  
25 who, while a milk distributor, provided milk to those who could  
26 not afford to pay for it; and

27 WHEREAS, Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon played a significant  
28 role in securing the temporary site for the original Cuesta  
29 College, and was instrumental in securing funds for a number of  
30 projects at California Polytechnic *State* University, San Luis  
31 Obispo. Also, through his efforts, the library at Hearst Castle was  
32 made available to University of California students for research;  
33 and

34 WHEREAS, Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon died on November 7,  
35 2004, was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Esther, in  
36 1990, and was survived by their daughters Elaine Healey and  
37 Carolyn Rexius, son Rick Sturgeon, brother Wilmer Sturgeon,  
38 sister Mildred Barclay, eight grandchildren, and 11  
39 great-grandchildren; and

1 WHEREAS, Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon carried the  
2 appropriations bill in the Senate for funding the construction of  
3 State Highway Route 46 from Paso Robles to the coast in San  
4 Luis Obispo County; and

5 WHEREAS, It would be a fitting tribute to Senator Vernon L.  
6 Sturgeon to name a portion of State Highway Route 101 between  
7 the Cities of Paso Robles and Atascadero in San Luis Obispo  
8 County as the “Vernon L. Sturgeon Memorial Highway”; *and*

9 WHEREAS, Marilyn Jorgenson Reece was born and raised in  
10 North Dakota and earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering  
11 from the University of Minnesota in 1948; and

12 WHEREAS, Marilyn Jorgenson Reece moved to Los Angeles  
13 with her parents shortly after graduation in 1948, and went to  
14 work for the State Division of Highways, which later ~~become~~  
15 *became* the Department of Transportation, as a junior civil  
16 engineer in Los Angeles; and

17 WHEREAS, After six years of experience required to sit for  
18 the Professional Engineers Exam, Marilyn Jorgenson Reece  
19 became the state’s first fully licensed female civil engineer in  
20 1954; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1962, Marilyn Jorgenson Reece received the  
22 Governor’s Design Excellence Award from Governor Pat Brown  
23 for designing the Interstate 10 and Interstate 405 interchange; and

24 WHEREAS, Marilyn Jorgenson Reece became the Division of  
25 Highway’s ~~firsts~~ *first* woman resident engineer for construction  
26 projects shortly after receiving that award; and

27 WHEREAS, The three-level Interstate 10 and Interstate 405  
28 interchange designed by Marilyn Jorgenson Reece opened in  
29 1964 and was the first interchange designed in California by a  
30 woman engineer; and

31 WHEREAS, Urban critic Reyner Banham, author of Los  
32 Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies, admired the  
33 wide-swinging curved ramps connecting the two freeways, and  
34 wrote that the Interstate 10 and Interstate 405 interchange “is a  
35 work of art, both as a pattern on the map, as a monument against  
36 the sky, and as a kinetic experience as one sweeps through it”;  
37 and

38 WHEREAS, During her 35-year career, Marilyn Jorgenson  
39 Reece’s projects included serving as senior engineer for the  
40 completion of State Highway Route 210 through Sunland in

1 1975—at the time, the largest construction project the Department  
2 of Transportation had ever awarded—at \$40 million; and

3 WHEREAS, After retiring in 1983, Marilyn Jorgenson Reece  
4 taught engineering classes at Cal State Long Beach; and

5 WHEREAS, During Women’s History Month in 1983, the Los  
6 Angeles City Council honored Marilyn Jorgenson Reece for  
7 making significant contributions to the city; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1991, Marilyn Jorgenson Reece received life  
9 membership in the American Society of Civil Engineers; now,  
10 therefore, be it

11 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
12 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby officially  
13 designates ~~that the~~ portion of State Highway Route 101 between  
14 Spring Street in Paso Robles and Santa Barbara Road in  
15 Atascadero, in San Luis Obispo County, as the Vernon L.  
16 Sturgeon Memorial Highway; and be it further

17 *Resolved*, That the Legislature hereby officially designates the  
18 Interstate 10 and Interstate 405 interchange, also known as the  
19 San Diego-Santa Monica Freeway Interchange, in the City of Los  
20 Angeles, as the Marilyn Jorgenson Reece Memorial Interchange;  
21 and be it further

22 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested  
23 to determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers,  
24 consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway  
25 system, showing these special designations, and upon receiving  
26 donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover that cost, to  
27 erect those plaques and markers; and be it further

28 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
29 this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the  
30 author for appropriate distribution.